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CONGRESS.

This body, which commenced its proceedings on the 16th day of last November, is drawing to the close of its session. It must adjourn, or, rather, will be constitutionally dissolved, on the 3d of March next, precisely at midnight. It has, therefore, only eleven days more to sit.

During the period of its session, up to this day, it has enacted but few laws; but many are in a progress of enactment, and some of them of considerable importance to the community. The Seminole campaign has absorbed much time; the Bank of the United States will probably absorb much more. In relation to the former, we have conceived it our duty to pay particular attention to it; not so much because the arguments in condemnation of the President and general Jackson have been of a character worth very serious animadversion, but because the charges brought forward on the occasion were of a nature, and supported with a vehemence, calculated to injure our national character in Europe. From this consideration chiefly, it has been, that we have occupied our pages so fully with the documents touching this topic. Last week we published the unanswerable letter of Mr. Secretary Adams to Mr. Erving on this subject, and we shall follow it up with the testimony which supports his reasoning in every part. We call the particular attention of the reader to this testimony, commenced in the present number of the National Register. In proportion as it is examined, the arguments of Mr. Adams will be found more close and perspicuous. It cannot be disguised—and yet it has been sought to be disguised—that those who have condemned general Jackson, have levelled the shafts of hostility at the administration: for, as the administration approved the measures of the general, it follows that those who decry the latter do, by consequence, attack the former. The battery against the executive was masked; but it was nevertheless, a battery. It has, however, been carried in the face of a pretty smart fire.—As to the bank question, it assumes so many forms—the influence of that great monied institution beginning evidently to operate in several directions—that, after publishing the report of the committee, we have paused, to see what might

possibly be the issue. That the directors of the institution have acted incorrectly there can be no doubt. In speculating for themselves, they have managed the firm badly. It is impossible for them to extricate themselves from direct condemnation. These stockjobbers, it appears, are moving upon Congress with memorials, explanations, newspaper essays, and private manoeuvring. They will, no doubt, all certify for one another. But this will signify but little with an enlightened, virtuous community, whose pockets have been picked by the depreciation of the paper currency, brought about by bank directors, stockjobbers, shavers, &c. &c. On this head we hold ourselves a little in reserve until the Congress adjourns: we shall then mark the incidents—the rise, growth, and fate of Mr. Spencer's inquiry. There will, we fear, be but little time for discussing the propriety of a bankrupt law; and yet, the late decision of the supreme court on the subject of insolvent laws would seem to require the institution of a bankrupt system more than ever. Since the foundation of the world there have been bankrupt laws, either particular ones, operating at once upon great masses of people grown desperate by misfortune and debt; or general, letting into new life the unfortunate trader as the evils of failure overtook him, so as to prevent the accumulation in society of materials prepared for civil war and pillage. We have kept up our journal of proceedings of Congress to this date with great regularity, not wishing to let them grow stale upon our hands: for, like certain liquors, unless used at the instant they are *uncorked*, they are very insipid. After the adjournment of the Congress, we shall have more room for miscellaneous matters, although we shall still be compelled to occupy several pages of the Register weekly with the public documents. Those who desire solid information will read them with attention: those who do not, will commonly find them accompanied by such literary and political sauces and condiments as will suffice to satisfy their palates.

In the arrangement of the following documents, those bearing upon each of the several subjects, marked in italics, are collected together. Their chronological order is, therefore, very irregular. But to understand their full effect, it is necessary to attend particularly to their respective dates: most especially of those relating to the proceedings of Arbuthnott—from his journal, 23d October, 1816, to his letter to his son, 2d April, 1818.

DOCUMENTS

Accompanying the letter of Mr. Secretary Adams to Mr. Erving, the minister of the United States at Madrid, in relation to the invasion of Florida and the execution of Arbuthnot and Armbrister.

Extract of a letter, No. 9, from Mr. Adams to Mr. Erving, dated Department of State, Washington, December 2, 1818.

On the 27th of March last, the Spanish minister here, Mr. Onís, addressed a letter to this department, for the professed purpose of vindicating the character and conduct of the Spanish commanding officers in Florida, and of proving that they had invariably discharged their duties of friendly proceeding towards the United States, and the obligations of the treaty of 1795, by which Spain was bound to restrain, by force, the hostilities of her Indians in Florida, against the United States. To this letter are annexed fourteen documents; the greater part of which consist of remonstrances, addressed during the late war between the United States and Great Britain, to British officers, against their continual violations of the neutrality of the Spanish territory. It is not however to those documents, but to the two numbered 13 and 14, as annexed to that letter, [66, 67,] that I wish to invite your attention. No. 13 is the translation of a letter, purporting to be from Bowlegs, one of the Seminole Indian chiefs, most inveterately hostile to the United States, to Don Jose Coppinger, governor of St. Augustine. A translation you will say—why a translation? and from what language? Neither governor Coppinger, nor Mr. Onís, have furnished the means of answering that question. They are furnished however by the papers of Arbuthnot, which fell into general Jackson's hands. The language was English, and the original was written by Arbuthnot. The draught was found among his papers, and was produced to the court martial upon his trial, [49, No. 2, p. 152 34.] We naturally suppose that governor Coppinger, upon receiving a letter in English, from a Seminole Indian chief, must have been surprised, unless he knew from whom and whence it came. The substance of his answer shows that he did know, both whence it came, and the character of him by whom it was written. By the copies of the two letters, which are enclosed, you will see, in that of Bowlegs, a part of the systematic intrigues of Arbuthnot, to instigate, as well the Spanish commanders in Florida, as the savages, against the United States; and in that of governor Coppinger, a direct declaration to the Indian, that all his supposed causes of alarm and complaint proceed "from the information of persons in whom he ought not to place the smallest confidence, it being their principle to employ such opportunities for the purpose of seducing him and his people from their daily labor." After offering his own friendly advice, the governor adds, "I am fearful, however, that the sentiments of those, who come into the territory, under the appearance of friendship, but with bad intentions, may influence your minds, and obtain your confidence, by their flattering representations." And finally, he complains that two persons had lately presented themselves as commissioners of the English nation, and carried off several runaway negroes, belonging to inhabitants of the province. It is apparent, from this letter, that governor Cop-

pinger was well informed of the operations of Arbuthnot and Woodbine, and that he saw them in their true colors. How then does it happen that a year afterwards the Spanish commandant at St. Marks is found so entirely leagued with Arbuthnot, as to sign his name to the approbation of a power of attorney, given to him by the hostile chiefs, to write letters and deliver talks, in their names; to hold councils of war with them at his quarters; to hold as prisoners white persons, inhabitants of the province, taken by them, and to write a letter to Arbuthnot, asking him to come and confer with him upon subjects which could not be committed to paper. The original of that letter, which is in bad French, and in the hand writing of the commandant of St. Marks, signed by him, is in our possession, [48.] A copy of it is among the papers enclosed. We cannot doubt that the Spanish government will consider it as a proof of the conspiracy of the commandant of St. Marks, with Arbuthnot and the Indians, against the United States. Should he be put upon his trial, as you are instructed to demand, the original letter itself will be transmitted, to be exhibited to the court.

It is to be observed that the original draught in Arbuthnot's hand writing, of the letter from Bowlegs to governor Coppinger, differs in several paragraphs from the translation communicated by Mr. Onís, as received by him from governor Coppinger. The following passage particularly, which appears in the draught, produced before the court martial, is not in the translation furnished by governor Coppinger. "The Spanish subjects in the Floridas are too much in the interests of the Americans to be our friends. For the governors I shall always entertain the greatest regard; but for the people, they do not act so as to merit my esteem and protection." The remainder of the letter is nearly the same. We do not suppose that the omission was made by the governor, but rather that Arbuthnot, yet uncertain how such a reflection would be received, omitted it from the letter itself, which was transmitted to the governor.

The papers marked 62, 63, 64, and 68, are copies of originals, in the hand writing of Arbuthnot, taken with the rest of his papers; but not exhibited before the court martial. The sheet of his journal is of some importance, as exhibiting his connexion and dissatisfaction with Woodbine. 63 is a letter from him, said to be to an officer of rank, in England, (no doubt Nicholls,) dated 30th January, 1818, only three months before he was taken. The sheet of the journal shows that Arbuthnot arrived, with Woodbine, from New Providence, at Suway, about the last of October, 1816, and that they immediately commenced their operations with the Indians, against the United States. Bowlegs's letter to governor Coppinger is dated the 18th of November, of that year, and apologizes for his not having sooner answered a letter of September, from the governor, by the impossibility he had been under of finding a person to write the answer from him. Among other complaints against Woodbine, in this journal, there is one, distinctly, that he had promised the savages assistance from the British government, without authority, and by direct falsehood, and he expresses an apprehension that when the Indians find out that none of those promises are realized, their fury will fall upon himself.

No. 1.

Nicholls's letter and proclamation.

Head quarters, Pensacola, }
August 31, 1814.

SIR,—I have arrived in the Floridas for the purpose of annoying the only enemy Great Britain has in the world. As France and England are now friends, I call on you, with your brave followers, to enter into the service of Great Britain, in which you shall have the rank of captain.—Lands will be given to you all, in proportion to your respective rankss, on a peace taking place; and I invite you out on the following terms: your property shall be guaranteed to you, and your person protected. In return for which I ask you to cease all hostilities against Spain, or the allies of Great Britain. Your ships and vessels to be placed under the orders of the commanding officer on the station, until the commander in chief's pleasure is known; but I guarantee their fair value at all events.

I herewith enclose you a copy of my proclamation to the inhabitants of Louisiana, which will, I trust, point out to you the honorable intentions of my government; you may be a useful assistant to me, in forwarding them; therefore, if you determine, lose no time; the bearer of this, captain M'Williams, will satisfy you on any other points you may be anxious to learn, as will captain Lockyer, of the *Sophia*, who carries him to you. We have a powerful reinforcement on the way here, and I hope to cut out some other work for the Americans, than oppressing the inhabitants of Louisiana. Be expeditious on your resolves, and rely upon the veracity of

Your humble servant,

(Signed) EDWARD NICHOLLS,

Lt. col. com. H. B. M. forces in the Floridas.

To Mons. Lafitte, or the

Commandant at Barataria.

By Lieutenant Colonel Edward Nicholls, commanding H. B. M. forces in the Floridas.

Natives of Louisiana, on you the first call is made, to assist in liberating from a faithless and imbecile government, your paternal soil. Spaniards, Frenchmen, Italians, and British, whether settled or residing for a time in Louisiana, on you I also call to aid me in the just cause. The American usurpation in this country must be abolished, and the lawful owners of the soil put in possession. I am at the head of a large body of Indians, well armed, disciplined, and commanded by British officers. A good train of artillery, with every requisite, seconded by the powerful aid of a numerous British and Spanish squadron of ships and vessels of war. Be not alarmed, inhabitants of the country, at our approach; the same good faith and disinterestedness which has distinguished the conduct of Britons in Europe, accompanies them here. You will have no fear of litigious taxes imposed on you, for the purpose of carrying on an unnatural and unjust war; your property, your laws, the peace and tranquillity of your country, will be guaranteed to you by men who will suffer no infringement of theirs; rest assured that these brave men only burn with an ardent desire of satisfaction for the wrongs they have suffered from the Americans, to join you in liberating these southern frontiers from their yoke, and drive them into the limits formerly prescribed by my sovereign. The Indians have pledged themselves in the most solemn manner not to in-

jure, in the slightest degree, the persons or properties of any but enemies to their Spanish or English fathers. A flag, over any door, whether Spanish, French, or British, will be a sure protection. Nor dare any Indian put his foot on the threshold thereof, under penalty of death from his own countrymen. Not even an enemy will an Indian put to death, except resisting in arms, and as for injuring helpless women and children, the red men, by their good conduct and treatment to them, will, if it be possible, make the Americans blush for their more than inhuman conduct lately, on the Escambia, and within a neutral territory.

Inhabitants of Kentucky, you have too long borne with grievous impositions. The whole brunt of the war has fallen on your brave sons; be imposed on no more; but either range yourselves under the standard of your forefathers, or observe a strict neutrality. If you comply with either of these offers, whatever provisions you send down, will be paid for in dollars, and the safety of the persons bringing it, as well as the free navigation of the Mississippi guaranteed to you. Men of Kentucky, let me call to your view, and I trust to your abhorrence, the conduct of those factions which hurried you into this cruel, unjust, and unnatural war, at a time when Great Britain was straining every nerve in the defence of her own, and the liberties of the world, when the bravest of her sons were fighting and bleeding in so sacred a cause; when she was spending millions of her treasure in endeavoring to pull down one of the most formidable and dangerous tyrants that ever disgraced the form of man; when groaning Europe was almost in her last gasp, when Britons alone showed an undaunted front, brave did these assassins endeavor to stab her from the rear; she has turned on them, renovated from the bloody but successful struggle. Europe is happy and free, and she now hastens justly to avenge unprovoked insults. Show them that you are not collectively unjust; leave the contemptible few to shift for themselves; let those slaves of the tyrant send an embassy to Elba, and implore his aid; but let every honest, upright, American spurn them with merited contempt. After the experience of twenty one years, can you any longer support those brawlers for liberty, who call it freedom, and know not when themselves are free; be no longer their dupes, accept of my offer. Every thing I have promised in this paper, I guarantee to you on the sacred honor of a British officer.

Given under my hand, at my head quarters, Pensacola, the 29th of August, 1814.

(Signed) EDWARD NICHOLLS.

No. 2. a.

Copy of a letter from colonel Nicholls to colonel Hawkins, *Appalachicola*, 28th April, 1815.

Being absent from this post when your letter of the 19th ult arrived, I take this opportunity to answer it. On the subjct of the negroes lately owned by the citizens of the United States, or Indians in hostility to the British forces, I have to acquaint you, that, according to orders, I have sent them to the British colonies, where they are received as free settlers, and lands given to them. The newspaper you sent me, is, I rather think, incorrect; at all events an American newspaper cannot be authority for a British officer. I herewith enclose you a copy of a part of the 9th article of

the treaty of peace relative to the Indians in alliance with us: they have signed and accepted it as an independent people, solemnly protesting to suspend all hostilities against the people of the United States. Within these few days I have had a complaint, from the Seminole's chief Bowlegs. He states that a party of American horse have made an incursion into the town, killed one man, wounded another, and stole some of his cattle; also that they have plundered some of his people on their peaceable way from St. Augustine. May I request of you to inquire into this affair, and cause justice to be done to the murderer, and have the cattle restored. I strictly promise you that for any mischief done by the Creeks under me, I shall do all in my power to punish the delinquents and have the property restored.

The chiefs here have requested me further to declare to you (that in order to prevent any disagreeable circumstances from happening in future) they have come to a determination not to permit the least intercourse between their people and those of the United States. They have, in consequence, ordered them to cease all communication directly or indirectly with the territory or citizens of the United States; and they do take this public mode of warning the citizens of the United States from entering their territory, or communicating directly or indirectly with the Creek people. They also request that you will understand their territories to be as they stood in the year 1811. In my absence I have directed first lieutenant William Hambly, the head interpreter, to communicate with you on any point relative to the Creeks; and I have given him my most positive orders, that he shall at all times do his best to keep peace and good neighborhood between the Creeks and your citizens.

I am, sir, your very humble servant,
(Signed) EDWARD NICHOLLS,
Com. the British forces in the Floridas.

No. 2 b.

Paper enclosed in the above letter.

Part of the 9th article of the treaty of peace between his Britannic majesty and the United States, relative to the Indians who have been in alliance with Great Britain and in hostilities with the United States.

The United States of America engage to put an end immediately after the ratification of the present treaty, to hostilities with all the tribes or nations of Indians with whom they may be at war at the time of such ratification, and forthwith to restore to such tribes or nations respectively all the possessions, rights, and privileges, which they may have enjoyed, or been entitled to in 1811, previous to such hostilities; provided always, that such tribes or nations shall agree to desist from all hostilities against the United States of America, their citizens and subjects, upon the ratification of the present treaty being notified to such tribes or nations, and shall so desist accordingly.

We, the undersigned, chiefs of the Muscogee nation, declared by his Britannic majesty to be a free and independent people, do, in the name of the said nation, agree to the 9th article of the treaty of peace between his Britannic majesty and the United States. And we do further declare that we have given most strict and positive orders to all our people that they desist from hostilities of

every kind, against the citizens or subjects of the United States.

Given under our hands, at the British fort on Appalichicola, the 2d day of April, 1815.

HEPOAETH MEICO, his x mark.

CAPPACHIMICO, his x mark.

HOPOY MEICO, T. P. his x mark.

Witnesses,

Edward Nicholls, Lt. Col. commanding the Indians.
R. Banks, com. H. M. brig Forward,

G. Woodbine, capt. 1st Br. R. C. M.

Wm. Hambly, 1st lieu. R. C. M. and head inter.

I certify, on honor, that this is a true copy of the original.

ELI LESTER, U. S. S. keeper, Fort Lawrence.

No. 3.

Colonel Nicholls to Colonel Hawkins,

British post, Appalichicola river, May 12, 1815.

In my letter to you of the 28th ult. I requested you would be so good as to make inquiry into the murder and robberies committed on the Seminoles belonging to the chief called Bowlegs, at the same time declaring my determination of punishing, with the utmost rigor of the law, any one of our side who broke it. Of this a melancholy proof has been given in the execution of an Indian of the Ataphalga town by Hothly Poya Tustunnugee, chief of Ocmulgees, who found him driving off a gang of cattle belonging to your citizens, and for which act of justice I have given him double presents, and a chief's gun, in the open square, before the whole of the chiefs, and highly extolled him. These, sir, are the steps I am daily taking to keep the peace with sincerity, but I am sorry to say the same line is not taken on your side, nor have you written to say what steps you are taking, or intend to take, to secure this mutual good. Since the last complaint from Bowlegs, I have had another from him to say your citizens have again attacked and murdered two of his people, that they had stolen a gang of his cattle, but that he had succeeded in regaining them.

I asked him what proof they had of their being killed. They said they had found their bloody clothes in the American camp, which was hastily evacuated on their approach. Now, sir, if these enormities are suffered to be carried on in a christian country, what are you to expect by showing such an example to the uncultivated native of the woods, (for savage I will not call them, their conduct entitles them to a better epithet.) I have, however, ordered them to stand on the defensive, and have sent them a large supply of arms and ammunition, and told them to put to death, without mercy, any one molesting them; but at all times to be careful, and not put a foot over the American line. In the mean time, that I should complain to you, that I was convinced you would do your best to curb such infamous conduct. Also, that those people who did such deeds, would, I was convinced, be disowned by the government of the United States, and severely punished. They have given their consent to await your answer, before they take revenge; but sir, they are impatient for it, and well armed as the whole nation now is, and stored with ammunition and provisions, having a strong hold to retire upon in case of a superior force appearing, picture to yourself, sir, the miseries that may be suffered by good and innocent citizens on your frontiers, and I am sure you will lend me

your best aid in keeping the bad spirits in subjection. Yesterday, in a full assembly of the chiefs, I got them to pass a law, for four resolute chiefs to be appointed in different parts of the nation, something in the character of our sheriffs, for the purpose of inflicting condign punishment on such people as broke the law; and I will say this much for them, that I never saw men execute laws better than they do. I am also desired to say to you by the chiefs, that they do not find that your citizens are evacuating their lands, according to the 9th article of the treasury of peace, but that they were fresh provisioning the forts. This point, sir, I beg of you to look into. They also request me to inform you, that they have signed a treaty of offensive and defensive alliance with Great Britain, as well as one of commerce and navigation, which, as soon as it is ratified at home, you shall be made more fully acquainted with.

I am, sir, your very humble servant,
(Signed) EDWARD NICHOLLS,
Comm'g. his B. M. forces in the Creek nation.
*Addressed—on his Britannic majesty's service,
to Col. Benj. Hawkins, com. at Fort Hawkins.*

No. 4.

Colonel Hawkins to colonel Nicholls.

Creek Agency, May 24, 1815.

On the 18th I had the pleasure to receive your communication of the 28th ultimo. I expected, from the tenor of your orders, which I conveyed to you from admirals Cochrane and Cockburn, on the 19th of March, that you had left the Floridas ere this, with the British troops under your command; and that Spain and the United States would have no more of British interference in the management of their Indian affairs. The newspaper I sent you, was one in which the official acts of our government are published. There could be no motive for falsification; your deeming it incorrect, must have proceeded from a knowledge that your conduct in relation to the negroes was at variance with it. It would have been acceptable in the communication relative to the disposition of "the negroes taken from the citizens of the United States, or Indians in hostility to the British," to have received the number, particularly belonging to the latter. As peace is restored between Great Britain and the United States, I feel a reluctance to put on paper, any thing that may have the tendency to tarnish the British character, or that of any officer of its government; but I owe it to the occasion, to state the declaration of captain Henry, that "the English are sent out by their great father and king, to restore his Indian people to their lands; and we are desired by him not to take away their negroes, unless they freely give them to us, or sell them for money, is violated." It is proper, also, to add, I did not enroll any Indians into the service of the United States, until after the negroes of Marshall, Stedham, and Kinnard, three half breeds, were taken from them by force or stratagem, by British officers. Your restriction of the captain's declaration to negroes belonging to Indians friendly to Great Britain, if, by that, is meant Indians hostile to the United States, is an erroneous one, as there is not one Creek who has negroes so situated.

The Creek chiefs, to use a courtly phrase, have just cause, at least, to say this is an "unjustifiable aggression." You having acted by orders, and it being now beyond your control, a remedy must and will be sought for elsewhere.

The documents you enclose, p. 2, 6, p. 33, signed by three chiefs, purporting to be the agreement of the Muscogee nation, to the 9th article of the treaty of peace, I shall lay before the chiefs of the nation, at a convention, soon to be held at Cowetau, and send you the result of their deliberations on it. The result of my reflections, with due deference I give you, as on the envelope it purports to be on his Britannic majesty's service. *It is within my knowledge, one of the chiefs is a Seminole of East Florida, and has never resided in the United States; and that neither of the three has ever attended the national councils of the Creeks, or are in any way a part of their executive government.* If the four witnesses had signed it as principals, and the three chiefs as witnesses, it would have been entitled to equal respect from me. *Could you be serious in communicating such a nullity with their mock determination not to permit the least intercourse between their people, (meaning the Creek nation) and those of the United States, &c.* As to the territory of the Seminoles, it being out of the United States, is an affair between them and the government of Spain, and that of the Creeks is as fixed and guaranteed in their treaty stipulations with the United States. I do not know that any occurrences can happen, which will render it necessary for me to communicate with lieutenant William Hamby. If by doing so, I can render acts of kindness to Indians or others, it would afford me pleasure; but, under present impressions, the 5th article of the treaty of friendship, limits and navigation, between the United States and the king of Spain, will govern me in all cases respecting the Indians in the Two Floridas.

I am with due regard, sir,
Your obedient servant,
(Signed) BENJAMIN HAWKINS.

No. 5.

Colonel Hawkins to Colonel Nicholls.

Creek Agency, 28th May, 1815.

On the 24th, I wrote to you in reply to yours of the 28th ultimo, and since, have had the pleasure to receive yours of the 12th. I had received from Bowlegs, direct, a complaint of an outrage committed "by the people of Georgia, who had gone into East Florida, driven off his cattle, and destroyed his property." I have sent this complaint to the governor of Georgia, who will readily co-operate with the officers of the general government, to cause justice to be done to the injured, if the complaint is true. The laws of the United States, provide completely for the protection of the Indian rights, and those interested with their execution, have the power of doing it. All that is wanted is a proof against the transgressors.

The Indians of Aulotchwan, who, without provocation, murdered and plundered a number of the subjects of Spain on St. Johns, have engendered such a deadly feud between the parties, that it will be long before the descendants of the injured can forget and forgive. Spain, from her internal commotions, has not found it convenient to settle a peace between them; and these people, it is probable, are taken for Georgians. *The Indians of this Agency, as well as those in the Floridas, have long known they have to apply through their chiefs, to me, for a redress of their grievances.* The government of the Creeks is not an ephemeral one. Its last modification is of more than ten years standing. It was the work and the choice of the na-

tion, and has a check on the conduct of the Seminoles.

In 1799, a gentleman arrived where you are from England, who had been an officer on half pay. He came in the Fox sloop of war, furnished by the admiral on the Jamaica station, by order of the admiralty, "to facilitate to him a passage to his nation the Creeks." This gentleman, after attempting in various ways, with the Seminoles, to usurp the government of the Creeks without success, created himself director general of Muscogee, declared war against Spain, murdered some of his subjects, and took St. Marks. He ordered me, with my assistants in the plan of civilization, out of the Creek nation.

I communicated his proceedings to the national councils, who had been previously acquainted with him, and who replied to him, "that he had a title among them which he well merited, Cap, pe, tun, nee, lox, au, (the prince of liars) and no other." This director general of Muscogee, after playing a farce for two years, experienced a tragic scene, which deprived him of his liberty. He was put in irons by order of the council whose government he attempted to usurp, and sent to the governor general of Louisiana, to answer for his crimes. His Seminole chiefs were glad to retire with impunity. After this, it was unanimously determined, in a national council of distinguished chiefs from every town, and a deputation of Choctaws, Chickasaws, and Cherokees, that the warriors should be classed, and held in readiness to execute the orders of the executive council, and that the agent for Indian affairs should have the power of executing the treaty stipulations of the Creeks with their white neighbors. Tookaubatche and Cowetau, alternately, as the occasion required, was appointed the permanent seat of their national councils, where national affairs alone could be transacted. They have now two speakers. When the council meets at Cowetau, 1 *Tustinnggee Hapoi*, as speaker for the Lower Creeks, is speaker for the nation; and when they meet at Tookaubatche, 2 *Tustinnggee Thlucco*, of the Upper Creeks, is speaker for the nation. Cowetau is head quarters for the present. The agent for Indian affairs can convene the council.

To this council, I communicated in your own words, the pretensions of your three chiefs. They answer: "We have had colonel Nicholls' communication before us—that Hapoith Micco, Caupachau Micco, and Hapoi Micco, are the sovereigns of this nation. We know nothing about them as such. We have often invited them to attend our talks. They never would come forward, and Hapoith Micco is a hostile Indian. They have nothing to do with our affairs. *They reside in the Spanish territory.*"

After mentioning a solitary effort of yours "to keep the peace," you say, "I am very sorry to say the same line is not taken on your side, nor have you written to me to say what steps you are taking, or intend to take, to secure this mutual good." You could not have expected I should communicate with you, when, from your orders, you were so soon to leave the country. *I have communicated to the national council several outrages committed by banditti from the Seminoles, and other parts, upon the post road and frontiers of Georgia, repeatedly. They have in two instances had the guilty shot, and sent armed parties after others. As late as the 17th April, one man was killed, and*

1 The Little Prince. 2. The Big Warrior.

four wounded, on the post road. Our wagons twice attacked, and one waggoner killed, several horses taken and carried, as reported, to your depot, at the very time the wagons were carrying seed corn for the Indians, and flour for the support of nearly 5000, totally destitute of food.

The measure in operation here, to preserve peace, is with an efficient force, red and white troops, to pursue, apprehend, and punish, all violators of the public peace. The executive council of the Creeks, are continually at Cowetau, with an assistant agent to take orders with the warriors when the necessity is apparent, and to call on me, when the aid of regular troops is necessary. *We do not rely on the exertions of any one but ourselves to preserve peace among the Creeks, and between them and their neighbors of the United States and the Floridas. We examine fairly, spare the innocent and punish the guilty, and in no case suffer revenge to carve for itself.*

On an exparte hearing, you have "armed the Seminoles, and given orders to put to death, without mercy, any one molesting them." This is cruelty without example, scalping men, women, and children, for troubling or vexing only, and the executioners the judges. To gratify their revenge, the good and innocent citizens on the frontiers, are to be the victims of such barbarity. Suppose a banditti were to commit a violent outrage, such as that of the 17th April, are we to charge it on the unoffending people of the frontiers, and kill them without mercy, if we could not find out the guilty? You have issued the order, provided and issued munitions of war for its execution, prepared and provisioned a strong hold to retire upon in case of superior force appearing, to protect them in this mode of gratifying their revenge. *You will be held responsible, and your strong holds will certainly not avail. If you are really on the service of his Britannic majesty, it is an act of hostility which will require to be speedily met, and speedily crushed. But, Sir, I am satisfied you are acting for yourself, on some speculative project of your own. The sovereign of Great Britain, could not, from his love of justice in time of peace, his systematic perseverance in support of legitimate sovereigns, almost to the impoverishing of his own nation, suffer any of his officers to go into a neutral country to disturb its peace.*

If the Seminole Indians have complaints to make, if they will do it through the chiefs of the Creek nation, or direct to me, or through an officer of his catholic majesty, as heretofore, I will cause justice to be done. In cases of murder, the guilty, if practicable, shall be punished, in case of theft restitution shall be made.

The treaties you have made for the Creek nation, with the authority created by yourself for the purpose, must be a novelty. It would surprise me much to see your sovereign ratify such as you have described them to be, with a people such as I know them to be, in the territories of his catholic majesty. I shall communicate what has passed on the subject between us, to the officers of Spain in my neighborhood, that they may be apprized of what you are doing.

As you may not have recent news from Europe, I send you some newspapers detailing important events there on the 4th of April. I am, &c.

BENJ. HAWKINS, Agent for Indian Affairs.
To Colonel Nicholls, &c. &c.

[Documents to be continued.]

Congress of the United States.

SENATE.

Thursday, February 11.

Mr. Morrow, from the committee on public lands, to whom the subject had been referred, reported a bill to revive the powers of the commissioners for ascertaining and deciding claims to land in the district of Detroit, and for settling the claims at Green Bay and Prairie du Chien, in the territory of Michigan.

The bills were severally passed to a second reading.

Mr. Williams, of Mississippi, submitted the following resolution:

Resolved. That the Secretary of the Treasury lay before the Senate, as early in their next session as practicable, an abstract of all bonds for duties on merchandise imported into the United States, which shall have become payable and remain unpaid on the 30th of September next: exhibiting in such abstract the date of each bond and the time when it became payable; its amount; the names of the obligors, distinguishing principals from sureties, and the district of the customs in which taken; together with such information as will show how much or what parts of such bonds are irrecoverable and lost to the United States.

A message was received from the President of the United States, by Mr. J. J. Monroe, of the same purport and tenor, and accompanied by copies of the same document, as were transmitted to the House of Representatives a few days ago, respecting applications from the minister at Prussia and the Hanseatic towns for reciprocal advantage in trade, &c. which were read and referred to the committee of foreign relations.

A message was also received from the President of the United States, transmitting a copy of the letter from governor Bibb to general Jackson, connected with the late military operations in Florida, (published at large in the proceedings of the House of Representatives on Monday last,) which were read.

The Senate resumed the consideration of the bill for the erection of an equestrian statue of the late general George Washington, in the capitol square.

Mr. Otis moved to postpone the bill to the 5th day of March, (to reject it) which motion was decided in the negative—yeas 15, nays 18.

On motion of Mr. Daggett, the bill was amended, by adding a proviso, that if the President should find that the monument would cost more than 150,000 dollars, the sum appropriated, he should not proceed to execute the act, but make a report of the estimated cost to the next session of Congress.

The question was then taken on ordering the bill, as amended, to be engrossed and read a third time, and decided in the affirmative—yeas 23, nays 14.

The engrossed bill making appropriations to carry into effect treaties with certain Indian tribes, and the engrossed bill for the relief of Daniel Pettibone, were severally read the third time, passed, and sent to the House of Representatives for concurrence.

The bill from the other house, directing the payment of certain drafts drawn by general Armstrong, in favor of William Morgan, was read the

third time, passed, and returned to the other house.

The Senate resumed the consideration of the bill "supplementary to the acts concerning the coasting trade."

The bill received some amendments, not affecting its principle, and was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

Friday, February 12.

On motion of Mr. Storer, it was

Resolved. That the President of the United States be and he is hereby requested to procure the cession of jurisdiction in and over such military and naval sites as have been or may be purchased for the use of the United States, and where such cession has not already been made.

The motion submitted yesterday by Mr. Williams, of Miss. was taken up and agreed to.

The bill for erecting an equestrian statue of General Washington, was read the third time; when

Mr. Ruggles moved to postpone the bill to the 5th of March, (to reject it) which motion was negative, by yeas and nays.

For postponement	13
Against it	21

The bill was then passed, and sent to the House of Representatives for concurrence.

The Senate took up a motion submitted yesterday by Mr. Wilson, to instruct the Secretary to procure, for the use of the Senate, copies of the memorial of Wm. Jones, late President of the Bank of the United States, and the documents accompanying the same, addressed to the House of Representatives; and the blank being filled with "500," the question was taken on agreeing to the resolution, and negative.

The engrossed bill, supplementary to the acts concerning the coasting trade, was read the third time, passed, and sent to the House of Representatives for concurrence.

Monday, February 13.

Mr. Eppes, from the committee of finance, to whom the subject had been referred, reported a bill further supplementary to the act to regulate the collection of duties on imports and tonnage.

The President communicated the general account of the Treasurer of the United States, from January to July of the last year, and the accounts of the War and Navy Departments from October, 1817, to October, 1818, together with the reports thereon, which were read.

Mr. Wilson, from the committee of claims, reported a bill for the relief of Vincent Grant, which was read.

Mr. Fromentin submitted a motion to instruct the library committee to inquire into the expediency of further extending the privilege of using the books in the library of Congress.

The following bills were severally read the third time, passed, and returned to the House, viz: A bill for the relief of Adam Kingsley, Thomas French, and Charles S. Leonard; a bill for the relief of Henry Davis; a bill for the relief of Benjamin Pool; a bill for the relief of Kenzie and Forsyth; and a bill providing additional penalties for false entries for the benefit of drawback, or bounty on exportation.

The following engrossed bills were severally read the third time, passed, and sent to the House for concurrence, viz:

The bill confirming the claim of Alexander M'Comb to a tract of land; the bill for the relief of

B. and P. Jourdon; the bill for the relief of Michael Hogan, and the bill for the relief of the heirs of Edward McCarty.

The Vice President of the United States having retired from the chair:

The Senate proceeded to the election of a President, pro tempore; when Mr. Barbour, of Virginia, was duly elected, and took the chair accordingly, from whence he made his acknowledgments to the Senate for the honor conferred on him.

On motion of Mr. Burrill, it was

Ordered, That the Secretary wait upon the President of the United States, and acquaint him with the election of Mr. Barbour, as President pro tempore of the Senate, and that he make a similar communication to the House of Representatives.

The bills which passed the other House on Saturday, were received and read.

The resolution from the other House, appointing a committee to inquire into and report the business necessary to be acted on during the present session, was received, and on motion of Mr. Wilson, passed three readings by general consent, was agreed to; and Messrs. Burrill and Morrow appointed on the part of the Senate.

The bill to incorporate a company to build a bridge over the eastern branch of the Potomac; the bill concerning the heirs and legatees of Thos. Turner, deceased; the bill respecting the location of certain sections of land to be granted for the seat of government for the state of Indiana; the bill to allow further time to complete the issuing and location of military land warrants; and the bill for the relief of Joseph Lelebre, severally passed through committees of the whole, and were ordered to a third reading.

Tuesday, February 16.

Mr. Macon, from the committee on foreign relations, to whom the subject had been referred, reported a bill in addition to the act concerning tonnage and discriminating duties in certain cases, which was read.

On motion of Mr. Ruggles, the committee on the post office were instructed to inquire into the expediency of establishing a post route from Cadiz to Rumley, in Ohio.

Among the petitions received and referred to-day, was one, presented by Mr. King, from the stockholders of the Bank of the United States resident in the city of New York, deprecating the abrogation of the Bank charter, and praying that measures may be adopted by Congress to restore the Bank to the confidence of the public.

Mr. Stokes, from the committee on the post office and post roads, to whom had been referred an inquiry into the expediency of authorizing the postmaster general to employ an armed guard for the protection of such mails as he might deem proper, made a report, declaring such authority inexpedient; which report was read.

The Senate resumed the consideration of the amendments of the House of Representatives to the bill to increase the salaries of certain officers of government. [Proposing to increase the salaries of the judges of the supreme court and those of the assistant postmasters general.]

Mr. Talbot moved to refer the amendments to a select committee, with instructions to make provision in the bill for increasing the salaries of the judges of the District Courts of the United States.

This motion was negatived—yeas 16, nays 21.

The question was then taken on concurring in the amendments of the House of Representatives; and decided in the affirmative—yeas 21, nays 17.

Three several bills, which were yesterday ordered to a third reading, were accordingly read the third time, passed, and returned to the other House; and the bill respecting the location of certain sections of land to be granted for the seat of government for the state of Indiana, was also read the third time, passed, and sent to the other House for concurrence.

The motion submitted yesterday by Mr. Fromentin, was taken up and agreed to.

The committee on pensions were, on motion of Mr. Van Dyke, discharged from the further consideration of the petition of — Langston.

Wednesday, February 17.

The President communicated a letter from the Hon. John Forsyth, announcing the resignation of his seat in the Senate of the United States.

The bills from the House of Representatives for the relief of Thos. Hall Jerrey; making provision for the claim of M. Poirey; and making provision for the claim of M. de Vienne, were severally read the third time, passed, and returned to the House.

Mr. Lacock moved that a member be added to the committee appointed on the subject of the Seminole war, in the place of Mr. Forsyth, who had resigned his seat in the Senate.

Mr. Eaton moved that the further consideration of the motion be postponed to a day beyond the session.

Upon these propositions a good deal of debate took place, which turned principally on the propriety of discharging the committee from the further consideration of the subject referred to them, of prosecuting the inquiry.

The question being at length taken on Mr. Eaton's motion for postponement—in effect to lay the subject to sleep, it was decided in the negative, by yeas and nays, as follows:

NAYS.—Messrs. Crittenden, Dickerson, Eaton, Edwards, Fromentin, Johnson, King, Leake, Morrow, Otis, Ruggles, Sanford, Stokes, Storey, Williams of Miss. Wilson—16.
YAYS.—Messrs. Barbour, Burrill, Daggett, Eppes, Gailard, Goldsborough, Horsey, Hunter, Lacock, Macon, Melien, Noble, Palmer, Roberts, Tait, Talbot, Taylor, Thomas, Tichenor, Van Dyke, Williams of Tenn.—21.

Mr. Lacock's motion was then agreed to; and Mr. Eppes was appointed to supply the place of Mr. Forsyth, on the select committee to whom the Seminole war subject was referred.

The bill to authorize a state government in the Missouri territory, &c. and the bill for the relief of Patrick Callan, were received from the House of Representatives and read and referred.

The following engrossed bills were severally read the third time, passed, and sent to the House of Representatives for concurrence, viz;

A bill for the relief of Pierre Denis de la Ronde; for the relief of Rees Hill; for the relief of Gabriel Godfroy; for the relief of Nathan Ford; for the relief of David Henly; for the relief of the heirs and legal representatives of Nicholas Vreeland, deceased; to authorize Wm. Prout to institute a bill in equity before the Circuit Court for the District of Columbia, against the Commissioner of the Public Buildings, and to direct a defence therein; to regulate the pay of the army when on fatigue duty; authorizing the purchase of live oak timber for naval purposes. And

The Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Monday, February 8.

Mr. Smith, of Md. from the committee of ways and means, reported a bill in addition to, and alteration of, an act laying a duty on imported salt, granting a bounty on pickled fish exported, &c. which was twice read and committed.

Mr. Marr, from the select committee appointed on the 1st inst. on the subject, reported a bill to amend the act supplementary to the act of the 18th of April, 1806, to authorize the state of Tennessee to issue grants and perfect titles to certain lands therein described, &c. which bill was twice read, and ordered to be engrossed, and read a third time.

The following message, received from the President of the United States on Saturday last, was read, and with the documents accompanying it, referred to the committee of ways and means.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States.

I transmit to Congress, for their consideration, applications which have been received from the Minister resident of Prussia, and from the Senates of the free and Hanseatic cities of Hamburg and Bremen, the object of which is that the advantages secured by the act of Congress of the 20th April last to the vessels and merchandise of the Netherlands, should be extended to those of Prussia, Hamburg, and Bremen. It will appear from these documents that the vessels of the United States, and the merchandise laden in them, are, in the ports of those governments, respectively, entitled to the same advantages in respect to imports and duties as those of the native subjects of the countries themselves. The principle of reciprocity appears to entitle them to the return of the same favor on the part of the United States; and I recommend it to Congress, that provision to that effect may be made.

JAMES MONROE.

February 6, 1819.

The committee on the post-office was, on the motions of Mr. Richards and Mr. Marchand, respectively, instructed to inquire into the expediency of establishing a post-road in Vermont, from Jamaica, through Wenhall to Manchester; and in Pennsylvania, from Greensburg in Westmoreland county, by the way of Salem, Cross Roads, Crawford's Mills, Freeport, Kittanning, Woodward's Mills, Indiana, Conemaugh, at the Salt Works, and New Alexandria, thence again to Greensburg.

The speaker laid before the House a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting sundry documents containing the information (as far as it can now be furnished) required by the resolution of the 16th ultimo, in relation to the tracts of lands reserved for the establishment of towns in the Alabama territory; which was read and ordered to lie on the table.

The Speaker also laid before the House a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting information required by the resolution of the 20th of April last requiring him to report what further improvement it may be practicable to make in the tariff duties on imported goods, &c. by charging specific duties instead of ad valorem duties.

The question was taken on the adoption of the following resolution, reported by the committee on military affairs:

"Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the United States disapproves the proceedings in the trial and execution of Alexander Arbuthnot and Robert C. Armbrister."

And decided in the negative—ayes 54, noes 90.

The question was then put on agreeing to the first resolution proposed by Mr. Cobb, as follows:

"Resolved, That the committee on military affairs be instructed to prepare and report a bill to this house, prohibiting, in time of peace or in time of war, with any Indian tribe or tribes only, the execution of any captive, taken by the army of the United States, without the approbation of such execution by the President."

And decided in the negative—ayes 57, noes 98.

The question was next taken on the second resolution offered by Mr. Cobb, which he modified to read as follows:

"Resolved, That the late seizure of the Spanish posts of Pensacola and St. Carlos de Barrancas, in West Florida, by the army of the United States, was contrary to the constitution of the United States."

And decided in the negative, also—ayes 65, noes 91.

The question was then taken on the third and last resolution proposed by Mr. Cobb, as follows:

"Resolved, That the same committee be also instructed to prepare and report a bill prohibiting the march of the army of the United States, or any corps thereof, into any foreign territory without the previous authorization of Congress, except it be in the case of fresh pursuit of a defeated enemy of the United States, taking refuge within such foreign territory."

And decided in the negative—ayes 42.

The committee of the whole then rose and reported their proceedings to the House, and the question being stated on concurring with the committee of the whole in their disagreement to the resolution reported by the military committee—

The question was then taken on concurring with the committee of the whole in their disagreement to the first branch of the resolution; viz: *"That this House disapproves of the trial and execution of Alexander Arbuthnot,"* and decided in the affirmative, by yeas and nays—Yeas 108, Nays 62.

The question was then taken on concurring with the committee of the whole, in its disagreement to the second part of the resolution, viz: *"That this House disapproves of the trial and execution of Robert C. Armbrister,"* and decided also in the affirmative, by yeas and nays—Yeas 107, Nays 63.

So the House concurred with the committee of the whole in rejecting the resolution of censure reported by the military committee.

Mr. Cobb then moved the adoption of the second resolution offered by him in committee of the whole, as modified, in the following words:

"Resolved, That the late seizure of the Spanish posts of Pensacola and St. Carlos de Barrancas, in West Florida, by the Army of the United States, was contrary to the constitution of the United States,"

Mr. Mills moved to amend the resolution by substituting the following after the word *"resolved,"*

"That this House disapproves of the capture and occupation of Pensacola and the fortress of Bar-

ances by the army of the United States, and the establishment of a civil government there without the authority of Congress.

[This modification was accepted by Mr. Cobb, but, subsequently, after the objections which were made to it, he declined receiving it as his motion.]

After some further conversation on the propriety of the different propositions, the question was taken on the motion for indefinite postponement, and decided in the negative, by yeas and nays,—Yeas 83—Nays 87.

The question was then taken on the resolution proposed by Mr. Cobb, and decided in the negative—yeas 70, nays 100.

Tuesday, February 9.

Mr. H. Nelson, from the committee on the judiciary, reported a bill to authorize the secretary of war to convey a lot or parcel of land, belonging to the United States, lying in Jefferson county, state of Virginia; which was twice read, and ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

Mr. Johnson, of Kentucky, from the military committee, reported a bill for the relief of Isaac Minis and others, which was twice read, and ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

The Speaker laid before the House a letter from the post master general, transmitting a statement of the names of clerks employed in the department in the year 1818, with the salary paid to each.

On motion of Mr. H. Nelson, it was

Resolved, That the committee on the judiciary be instructed to inquire into the expediency of providing by law for vesting in the President of the United States a power to demand from the executives of the several states fugitives, who, having committed offences against society within the District of Columbia, or other territory subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, may have sought an asylum in any of the states of this union; as also, power and authority to comply with the demand made by any of the executives of the United States for the delivery of fugitives who, having committed offences against the laws of such states, may have sought an asylum in the District of Columbia, or in any other territory over which the jurisdiction of the United States may extend.

On motion of Mr. Spencer,

Resolved, That the committee on pensions and revolutionary claims be instructed to inquire into the expediency of placing on the pension list doctor Nathaniel Wilson and Dorothea Hopkins, widow of the late colonel Caleb Hopkins.

On motion of Mr. Williams, of N. C. the house then took up and proceeded to consider the resolution submitted by him on the 10th December, 1818, instructing the committee on military affairs to inquire into the expediency of reducing the army. The said resolution being read, was agreed to.

Mr. Johnson, of Va. submitted the following resolution:

Resolved, That the committee on the judiciary be instructed to report a bill to repeal the act entitled "An act to incorporate the subscribers to the Bank of the United States," passed April 10th, 1816.

The resolution was agreed to, and referred to the committee of the whole, on the bank report, as were also those of Mr. Spencer and of Mr. Trimble, on their respective motions.

The amendments proposed by the Senate to the bill, entitled "An act to incorporate the Medical Society of the District of Columbia," were read and referred to the committee on the District of Columbia.

The following bills were received from the Senate, to wit: A bill for the relief of Samuel Wood; a bill supplemental to the act, entitled "An act further to amend the charter of the city of Washington;" a bill for the relief of John Clark; a bill for the relief of John A. Dix; and a bill for the relief of John B. Timberlake; which were severally read twice and referred.

The engrossed bill to amend the act supplementary to the act to authorize the state of Tennessee to issue grants and perfect titles to certain lands, was read the third time, passed, and sent to the Senate for concurrence.

The house then resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Bassett in the chair, on the bill making appropriations for the support of government for the year 1819.

Amongst the motions made in the course of the proceeding, the appropriation of fifty thousand dollars for defraying the expenses of intercourse with foreign nations, was objected to by Mr. Johnson, of Va. who moved to substitute twenty thousand for that object.

The motion was negatived; and the committee proceeded with the remaining provisions of the bill, the whole of which were agreed to, with the exception of the appropriation for the Cumberland road, which was passed by for the present, to afford an opportunity for further consideration.

The committee having risen and reported progress,

The House adjourned.

Wednesday, February 10.

Mr. Smith, of Md from the committee of ways and means, made an unfavorable report on the petition of George Tiffany; which was read and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Livermore, from the committee of the post office and post roads, reported a bill to alter and establish certain post roads; which was twice read and committed.

Mr. Holmes submitted a resolution to authorize the members of Congress to transmit, free of postage, the volume of documents accompanying the report of the bank committee: which resolution was read three times, passed, and sent to the Senate for concurrence.

The committee on pensions and revolutionary claims, were, on motion of Mr. Hubbard, directed to inquire into the expediency of placing Isaac Stebbins on the pension list.

The bill for the relief of Joseph Wheaton, was withdrawn from the committee of the whole, and ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

The committee of claims were, on motion of Mr. Williams, of N. C. discharged from further considering the petition of Walter Brabrook and Rebecca Hodgson.

The Speaker laid before the House a letter from the Comptroller of the Treasury, transmitting a report from the Fourth Auditor, of the balances on his books, which have been due more than three years prior to the 30th of September last.

The Speaker also laid before the House a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting statements of importations in American and

foreign vessels; and an aggregate view of both for the year ending 30th September, 1817.

These communications were read and ordered to lie on the table.

The bills which passed the Senate yesterday, were received, severally twice read, and referred.

The engrossed bill to authorize the Secretary of War to convey a lot of land belonging to the United States, in Jefferson county, Virginia, and the engrossed bill for the relief of Isaac Minis, were severally read the third time, passed, and sent to the Senate for concurrence.

The House then resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Bassett in the chair, on the general appropriation bill for 1819.

The appropriation contained in the bill, of 250,000 dollars for the payment of moneys due and becoming due on existing contracts for completing the road from Cumberland, in Maryland, to the state of Ohio, with the amendment of Mr. Clay to add an appropriation of 285,000 dollars for the completion of said road, gave rise to much debate.

Mr. Smith, of Md. Mr. Clay, Mr. Pindall, Mr. Beecher, Mr. Pitkin, spoke in favor of the appropriation, Mr. Johnson, of Va against any appropriation for this object, Mr. Baldwin against the latter appropriation, and Mr. Tallmadge against the appropriation, on the ground of imputed misapplication of the money.

Mr. Johnson, of Virginia, moved to strike out of the bill the clause appropriating 250,000 dollar for present contracts; which motion was negatively

Mr. Clay moved to insert an additional appropriation of 285,000 dollars for the completion of the road; which was agreed to by the following vote:

For the additional appropriation	66
Against it	61

The committee then proceeded to the consideration of the bill from the Senate, referred to the same committee, to increase the salaries of certain officers of the government (to give the Heads of Departments salaries of 6000 dollars each, the postmaster general 4,000, and the Attorney general 3,500 dollars.)

Mr. Hopkinson moved to amend this bill so as to give to the Chief Justice of the United States 5000 dollars per annum, and to the Circuit Judges 4,500 dollars per annum.

After debate, this motion was agreed to, 69 to 57.

Mr. Whitman moved an amendment to increase the salaries of the two assistant postmasters general from 1,800 to 2,500 dollars per annum; which was negatived.

Mr. Rich moved to reduce the proposed salaries of the Heads of Departments from 6000 to 5500; which motion was negatived by a considerable majority.

Thursday, February 11.

Charles Fisher, a Representative from North Carolina, in the place of George Mumford, deceased, appeared, was qualified, and took his seat.

The bill more effectually to provide for the punishment of certain crimes against the United States was received from the Senate, twice read and referred.

On motion of Mr. Williams, of North Carolina, the committee on military affairs were discharged from the further consideration of the resolution submitted by him some days ago, directing

an inquiry into the expediency of reducing the army of the United States.

The bill from the Senate supplemental to the act further to amend the charter of the City of Washington, was read the third time and passed.

The House took up and proceeded to consider the amendments reported by the committee of the whole House, to the bill making appropriations for the support of government for the year 1819.

The first question was on concurring in the amendment which proposed to insert the following item: "For completing the United States' road from Cumberland, in Maryland, to the Ohio river, 235,000 dollars."

Mr. Taylor, after supporting his motion by several arguments, proposed to add the following amendment:

"To be repaid out of the fund reserved for laying out and making roads to the state of Ohio, by virtue of the act, entitled 'An act to enable the people of the eastern division of the territory north-west of the river Ohio, to form a constitution and state government, and for the adquisition of such state into the Union on an equal footing with the original states, and for other purposes.'"

The amendment was finally agreed to; and

The question was then taken on agreeing to the amendment reported by the committee of the whole, as amended, and decided in the affirmative, by yeas and nays—yeas 82, nays 71.

Mr. Taylor then moved the same amendment, to come in after the appropriation of 250,000 for discharging claims due and becoming due under existing contracts for making said road; which was agreed to *nem con*.

Mr. Johnson, of Va. then offered an amendment, which, after some discussion, in which Mr. J. supported, and Mr. Smith, of Md. and Mr. Lowndes, made some remarks, principally explanatory, was agreed to, as follows:

"For a deficiency in the appropriations of former years for the payment of expenses on foreign intercourse, including losses on drafts and the difference of exchange, 25,000 dollars."

This item as it originally stood in the bill read—For a deficiency in the appropriation for the year 1818 for contingent expenses of said missions—(Rio Janerio, Madrid, London, Hague, and Stockholm,) 25,000 dollars."

Mr. Terrell moved to amend the bill so as to increase the appropriation for the Clerks in the office of the surgeon general from 1,150 dollars to 2,150 dollars.

This motion gave rise also to some debate, and was finally negatived, without a division.

Mr. Johnson, of Va. moved to reduce the contingent appropriation for defraying the expenses attending intercourse with foreign nations (generally called the secret service fund) from 50,000 to 30,000 dollars; which motion Mr. J. supported at some length, and replied to by Messrs. Smith, of Md. and Lowndes, and was finally agreed to—yeas 70, nays 54.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading; and

The House proceeded to the consideration of the amendments reported by the committee of the whole to the bill to increase the salaries of certain officers of the government—viz. to increase also the compensation of the chief justice and judges of the supreme court.

The amendment was concurred in by a large majority.

The question was taken on postponing the bill indefinitely, and decided in the negative, by yeas and nays—yeas 59, nays 93.

Mr. Whitman then renewed the motion which he had made in committee of the whole, to increase the salaries of the assistant post masters general to 2500 dollars, and supported his motion by reference to sundry facts, to prove its necessity. The motion was agreed to; and,

After an unsuccessful motion by Mr. J. S. Smith to recommit the bill, for the purpose of increasing the salaries of the district judges,

The bill was ordered to be engrossed.

Friday, February 12.

Amongst the petitions presented and referred this morning, was one by Mr. Mason of Mass. from Benjamin Dearborne, of Boston, stating that he has invented a mode of propelling wheel carriages by steam, well calculated for the conveyance of the mail and any number of passengers, and which will be perfectly secure from robbers on the high way—and praying that Congress may direct an experiment to be made, to test the utility of the invention.

Mr. Taylor, from the committee of revision and unfinished business, reported a bill concerning the allowance of pensions upon a relinquishment of bounty land; which was read twice, and ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

Mr. Poindexter, from the committee on the public lands, reported a bill for the relief of Henry Bateman; which was twice read and ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

Mr. Poindexter, from the same committee, reported sundry bills from the Senate, heretofore referred, without amendment.

Mr. Herbert, from the committee on the District of Columbia, reported a bill concerning the banks of the District of Columbia. [Providing for the consolidation of the several banks of the district into two in each town, viz: in the city of Washington, under the denomination of the *Bank of Washington* and the *Bank of the Metropolis*; in Georgetown, under the denomination of the *Bank of Columbia* and the *Bank of Georgetown*; and in Alexandria, under the denomination of the *Bank of Alexandria* and the *Bank of Potomac*—each with a capital of one million of dollars; the remaining present banks to be merged in those above named, if they shall think proper, as follows: The Patriotic Bank to subscribe its capital in the Bank of Washington; the Union Bank, the Farmers' and Mechanics' Bank, and the Central Bank of Georgetown, to subscribe their capitals in the new Bank of Georgetown; the Bank of Alexandria, the Mechanics' Bank, and the Union Bank of Alexandria, to subscribe their capitals in the new Bank of Alexandria; and the Franklin Bank to subscribe its capital to the Bank of Potomac; the said subscriptions to be made on or before the first Monday in July, in the books to be opened for that purpose. The banks created by this act, to subscribe, on their organization, six per cent. on the capitals paid in for constructing turnpike roads connected with the District.]

The bill was twice read and laid on the table. Mr. Livermore, from the committee on the post office and post roads, reported a bill freeing from postage letters and packets to and from certain officers of agricultural societies; which was twice read and laid on the table.

The house took up for consideration the report made by the committee of ways and means during the last session, on the expediency of authorizing the President of the United States to distribute an additional sum among the assessors of the United States. Whereupon,

On motion of Mr. Barbour, of Virginia, the report was recommitted to the committee of ways and means, with instructions to inquire into the expediency of preparing and reporting a bill allowing compensation to those assessors who, under the act of August 2d, 1813, commenced the duties prescribed therein, and were prevented from proceeding by reason of the state to which their assessment district belonged assuming its quota of the direct tax.

On motion of Mr. Poindexter, it was

Resolved, That a committee be appointed, jointly with such committee as may be appointed by the Senate, to inquire what subjects before the two houses it will be proper to act on during the present session.

The engrossed bill making appropriations for the support of government for the year 1819, was read the third time, passed, and sent to the Senate for concurrence.

The bill from the Senate to increase the salaries of certain officers of the government, was read the third time, as amended by the house, and the question on its passage decided by yeas and nays, as follows:—Yeas 76, Nays 56.

So the bill was passed, and returned to the Senate for concurrence in the amendments.

Mr. Williams, of N. C. agreeably to the intimation which he gave yesterday submitted the following resolution:

Resolved, That the military peace establishment of the United States shall consist of such proportions of artillery, infantry, and riflemen, not exceeding in the whole 6,000 men, as the President of the United States shall judge proper; and that the committee on military affairs be instructed to report a bill for that purpose.

Saturday, February 13.

The engrossed bill concerning the allowance to pensioners upon a relinquishment of bounty lands; and the engrossed bill for the relief of Henry Bateman, were severally read the third time, passed, and sent to the Senate for concurrence.

The bills from the Senate for the relief of John Clark; providing for a grant of land for the seat of government of the state of Mississippi; and for the support of a seminary of learning within the said state; and authorizing the President of the United States to purchase the lands reserved by the act of the 3d of March, 1817, to certain chiefs and warriors or other Indians of the Creek nation, were severally read the third time, passed, and returned to the Senate.

The bill supplementary to the acts concerning the coasting trade; and the bill for the erection of an equestrian statue of the late general George Washington, on the capitol square, were received from the Senate, and severally twice read; the first was referred to the committee of ways and means, and the second committed to a committee of the whole house.

The House then proceeded again to the consideration of the resolution offered by Mr. Williams, of N. C. to reduce the army of the United States.

Mr. J. S. Smith, of N. C. moved to amend the resolution by adding thereto the following:

Resolved, That the act or acts of Congress authorizing the appointment of two major generals be repealed, and that the office of major general in the military peace establishment of the United States, be dispensed with.

Resolved, That the residue of the staff of the army of the United States be reduced to one half of the present number of officers, or as nearly so as the nature of the case will admit of.

The amendment was accepted by Mr. Williams as a part of his motion.

The question was then taken on laying the resolutions on the table, and decided in the affirmative—yeas 71, nays 66.

So the resolutions were laid on the table.

Monday, February 13.

The Speaker laid before the House a letter from the Treasurer of the United States, transmitting statements of his accounts; which letter and statements were ordered to lie on the table.

Among the memorials presented to-day was the following:

By Mr. Sergeant, the petition of sundry merchants of Philadelphia, stating, that, late in the year 1806, they made large shipments in American and Colonial Produce from ports of the United States to the port of Antwerp, in France; that the vessels in which their shipments were made were carried into England, under the Orders in Council of Great Britain, and, after being subjected to illegal duties, were released; that, upon their arrival at the port of Antwerp, the ships, with their cargoes, were seized under the decrees of France, commonly called the Berlin and Milan Decrees, and were sold, and the proceeds paid into the treasury of France; that all their efforts to obtain redress have been unavailing, and praying that such measures may be adopted by the government of the United States as will induce that of France to grant them compensation for their property, as well as for its detention.

The Memorial was read, and referred to the Secretary of State.

A petition was also presented by Mr. Pindall, from sundry inhabitants of the state of Virginia, praying to be permitted to settle on Columbia river, in the Missouri territory, at a point below the head of the navigation on said river; and referred to the committee on public lands.

A memorial was presented, also, by Mr. Speaker, from George Williams, explanatory of his conduct as a Director, on the part of the government, of the Bank of the United States; which was read and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Smith, of Md. reported a bill making an appropriation for carrying into effect the provisions of an act passed on the 1st day of March, 1817, "making reservation of certain public lands to supply timber for naval purposes;" which was twice read and committed.

Mr. Johnson, of Ky. reported a bill for establishing an additional military academy, and a military school of application; which was twice read and committed.

The bill for the relief of Patrick Callan, was taken up, and ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

The House having again resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Smith, of Md. in the chair, on the bill to authorize the people of the Missouri territory to form a constitution and

state government, and for the admission of the same into the Union.

The question being on the proposition of Mr. Tallmadge, to amend the bill by adding to it the following proviso:

"And provided, That the further introduction of slavery or involuntary servitude, be prohibited, except for the punishment of crimes whereof the party shall have been fully convicted; and that all children born within the said state, after the admission thereof into the Union, shall be free at the age of twenty-five years."

The question being put on the motion of Mr. Tallmadge, to amend the bill, the vote was

For the amendment

79

Against it

67

So the amendment was agreed to.

Tuesday, February 16.

Among the petitions presented this morning was one from the postmasters of the cities of Boston, Albany, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington, praying for an increase of their compensation.

The bills from the Senate for the relief of B. and P. Jourdan, brothers; for the relief of Edward McCarty; for the relief of Michael Hogan; confirming the claim of Alexander Macomb to a tract of land in the territory of Michigan; were severally received, twice read and committed.

The engrossed bill for the relief of Patrick Callan, was read a third time, passed and sent to the Senate.

Mr. Williams, of N. C. moved to proceed again to the consideration of the proposition to reduce the army; which motion was rejected by a majority of about 10 votes.

The house then proceeded to the consideration of the amendments reported by the committee of the whole to the bill for authorizing the people of the Territory of Missouri to form a Constitution and State Government, and for the admission of the same into the Union.

The whole of the amendments made in committee of the whole were agreed to, with the exception of that which prohibits slavery or involuntary servitude in the proposed state.

The question was taken on agreeing to the first member of the proposed amendment, in the following words:

"That the further introduction of slavery, or involuntary servitude, be prohibited, except for the punishment of crimes, whereof the party shall have been fully convicted."

On which question the yeas and nays were as follows Yeas 87, Nays 76.

The question was then taken on agreeing to the second member of the said amendment, which is in the following words:

"And that all children born within the said state, after the admission thereof into the Union, shall be free at the age of 25 years."

On which question the vote was, by yeas and nays as follows: for the said second part 82, against it 78.

So the whole of the amendments, as proposed by Mr. Tallmadge, were agreed to.

Some other amendments having been made to the bill—

Mr. Storrs, moved so *strike out* so much of the bill as says that the new state shall be admitted into the Union *on an equal footing with the original states.*

The motion was negatived.

The question on ordering the bill to be engrossed for a third reading, was then decided in the affirmative, 98 to 56.

Wednesday, February 17.

Mr. Wendover presented a memorial of the chamber of commerce of the city of New York, praying that no measures may be adopted tending to dissolve the charter of the Bank of the United States, but that the evils alleged may be corrected, and the Bank permitted to continue its operations; and

Mr. Tyler presented a similar memorial from sundry citizens of the city of Richmond; both of which memorials were read and referred to the committee of the whole House, to whom was committed the report on the bank, &c.

The bill from the Senate, "supplementary to the acts concerning the coasting trade," which had been referred to the committee of ways and means, was reported by Mr. Smith, of Md. without amendment. [This bill, it will be recollected, proposes to divide the sea coast and rivers therein, into four districts, as heretofore stated in detail.]

Mr. Silsbee moved an amendment to the bill, which proposed, in effect, to divide the sea coast of the United States into *two* districts, instead of *four*, as contemplated by the bill; the first district to extend from the eastern limits of the United States to the southern limits of Georgia; the second district from the river Perdido to the western limits of the United States.

This motion gave rise to a discussion of the merits of the bill, as well as of the particular proposition; in which Messrs. Silsbee, Orr, Smith, of Md. Livermore, and Whitman took part; and the debate had proceeded for some time, when

Mr. Trimble, to give further time for considering a proposition so important in its character, moved to lay the bill on the table; which motion prevailed, and

The bill was laid on the table.

Mr. Spencer, from the committee appointed on the 10th of April last, to inquire into the official conduct of Wm. P. Van Ness and of Matthias B. Tallmadge, judges of the southern and northern districts of New York, and of William Stephens, judge of the district of Georgia, made a report, touching the official conduct of the two first named gentlemen; which was read, and ordered to lie on the table and be printed.

The bill from the Senate respecting the location of certain sections of land to be granted for the seat of government in the state of Indiana, was twice read and referred.

The engrossed bill to authorize the people of the territory of Missouri to form a constitution and state government, and for the admission of such state into the Union on an equal footing with the original states, was read the third time, passed, and sent to the Senate.

The House then resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Smith, of Md. in the chair, on the bill to provide a territorial government for the southern part (the Arkansaw country) of the Missouri territory.

Mr. Taylor, of New York, moved to amend the bill by inserting a clause (similar to that incorporated, on the motion of Mr. Tallmadge, in the Missouri bill) to prohibit the existence of slavery in the new territory.

This motion gave rise to a wide and long continued debate, covering part of the ground previ-

ously occupied on this subject, but differing in part, as the present proposition was to impose a condition on a territorial government, instead of as in the former case, to enjoin the adoption of the principle in the constitution of a state, and as it applied to a more southern territory.

The motion was advocated by Messrs. Taylor, Tallmadge, Livermore, Spencer, and Cushman; and was opposed by Messrs. Clay, Robertson, Walker, of N. C. Tyler, Hugh Nelson, Storrs, Johnson, of Va. Barbour, of Va. M'Lane, of Del. and Kinsey. Several of the gentlemen spoke more than once, and the debate was maintained, with much animation, until near 4 o'clock.

The question was finally taken on the first part of the motion (it having been divided) in the following words:

"That the further introduction of slavery or involuntary servitude be prohibited, except for the punishment of crimes, of which the party shall have been duly convicted;"

And was decided in the negative.

For the motion

69

Against it

80

The remaining part of the proposition to declare all the children free after 25 years of age, who shall be hereafter born in the territory, was negatived without a division.

The committee then proceeded with the bill, and having gone through it, next took up the Alabama bill, for enabling the people of that territory to form a constitution and state government, and for the admission of the same into the Union on a footing with the original states.

Much time was busily employed by the committee in receiving and disposing of various amendments proposed to the details of this bill, and in considering and deciding on its provisions—Messrs. Crowell, Poindexter, Cobb, and others, entered into the discussion. The committee negatived one or two motions to rise, and persevered through the bill, when

The committee rose, and reported both bills to the House, with the amendments made thereto; and, at near five o'clock the House adjourned.

Thursday, February 18.

Robert Raymond Reid, a new member from Georgia, elected to supply the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Mr. Forsyth, appeared and took his seat.

Mr. Bloomfield reported a bill supplementary to "An Act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war," which was twice read and committed.

The bill from the Senate for the relief of John B. Timberlake was ordered to be read a third time to-morrow.

Mr. Reed moved that the house proceed to take into consideration the resolution submitted by him on the 23d ult. for the erection of a monument to the memory of the late major general De Kalb, which motion was negatived.

Mr. Holmes moved that the house do come to the following resolution:

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to inquire into the expediency of providing for the first meeting of the next Congress at an earlier period than the first Monday of December; and that the committee have leave to report by bill or otherwise.

On the question to agree to this motion, it was decided in the negative.

The bill from the Senate to regulate the pay of the army when employed on fatigue duty, was twice read, and ordered to be read a third time to-morrow.

The bill from the Senate, confirming the title of Alexander Macomb to a tract of land in the territory of Michigan, was read the third time and passed.

The house then proceeded to the consideration of the report of the committee on the bill to establish a separate territorial government in the southern part of the present Missouri territory.

Mr. Taylor moved to amend the same, by inserting the following proviso in the bill:

"That the further introduction of slavery, or involuntary servitude, be prohibited, except for the punishment of crimes, whereof the party shall have been fully convicted."

"And that all the children born within the said state, after the admission thereof into the Union, shall be free at the age of 25 years."

The question on this motion being divided, was first taken on agreeing to the first clause thereof, in the following words:

"That the further introduction of slavery, or involuntary servitude, be prohibited, except for the punishment of crimes, whereof the party shall have been fully convicted."

And decided in the negative.

The question was then taken on the remaining clause of said proposed amendment, in the following words:

"And all children born of slaves within the said territory, shall be free, but may be held to service until the age of 25 years;"

And decided in the affirmative.

Mr. Williams, of N. C. then moved to reconsider the vote just taken. He had voted with the majority, for the purpose of obtaining for himself the privilege of moving a reconsideration, wishing for a full expression of the opinion of the house on this important question, which could not now be obtained, as many members were out of the house.

The question was taken on reconsidering the vote, and decided, by yeas and nays, in the negative—for reconsideration 77, against it 79.

The question being then stated on ordering the bill to be engrossed for a third reading.

Mr. Bassett, deeming every effort called for on the part of the minority on this subject, to sustain their constitutional rights, which he considered to be assailed in the amendment just adopted, moved that the bill be recommitted to a select committee.

Some conversation took place between Messrs. Pindall, Colston, Edwards, Scott, Lowndes, and Mills, as to the course now most expedient to give the bill, in the course of which,

Mr. Lowndes moved that the bill be laid on the table, stating at the same time that, to prevent its being called up and decided by surprise, he should, at 12 o'clock to-morrow, move for a call of the house, and to take up the bill for a decision. This motion prevailed, and the bill was laid on the table.

The house next took up the amendments reported by the committee of the whole to the bill from the Senate, to authorize a state government in the territory of Alabama, and for its admission in the Union.

The amendments were concurred in by the house, and (after an ineffectual attempt by Mr.

Crowell further to amend one of the sections,) were ordered to be engrossed, and, with the bill read a third time.

The house then resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Hugh Nelson in the chair, on the state of the Union, to whom had been referred the report of the committee appointed to investigate the affairs of the bank, the conditional restrictions subsequently submitted by Mr. Spencer, the resolution absolutely to repeal the charter, submitted by Mr. Johnson of Va. and that offered by Mr. Trimble, to issue a *scire facias*.

The particular subject first in order was the bill reported by the bank committee to enforce the provisions of the act incorporating the bank, and it was accordingly announced by the chairman.

Mr. Johnson, of Va. observed that, as there were two other propositions before the committee, the adoption of either of which would supersede the necessity of acting on the bill, he thought it would be the preferable course first to take up for consideration one of those propositions; and he moved that the committee proceed to consider the resolution moved on the 9th inst. by himself, in the following words:

Resolved, That the committee on the Judiciary be instructed to report a bill to repeal the act entitled "An Act to incorporate the subscribers to the Bank of the United States," passed April 10th, 1816."

The committee agreed to take up this resolution, which was read.

Mr. Spencer rose and stated, that he owed it to the civility of Mr. Johnson, that, in violating the usual custom on such occasions, which allowed the mover of a proposition to commence its discussion, he was sanctioned by the assent of Mr. Johnson. Mr. S. begged leave to remind the committee that there were three distinct propositions before it; the first was the resolution of the gentleman from Virginia; (Mr. Johnson,) the second was that he had the honor of submitting some days since, directing the issuing a *scire facias*, if the bank did not on a certain day express its assent to a modification of its charter; and the third was the resolution of his friend from Kentucky, (Mr. Trimble,) directing a *scire facias* absolutely and unconditionally. Mr. S. observed that he should prefer a modification of the charter, even if it should by some be esteemed a new compact, to the total destruction of the bank, with the views and apprehensions he entertained at present of the consequences of such a measure. If the committee should reach the resolution he had submitted, it was his intention to modify it, in some respects, particularly to omit the third proposition which proposed giving the President the power of removing any director; and he should in other respects amend his propositions, as time and reflection had enabled him, he thought, to improve them. And, if the committee should reach the bill reported by the select committee, Mr. S. observed, he should, with the approbation of the gentlemen composing that committee, submit an amendment which would require the stockholders, constituting an attorney to vote for them, to swear to their ownership of the stock. Mr. S. thought it proper to apprise the committee of these intentions, that the subject might be fairly considered. For the reason before stated, Mr. S. said, he should at present vote against the resolution for the repeal of the charter, and against that directing the issuing of a *scire facias*;

but, if he should not succeed in at least the plan of the propositions he had submitted, although he should not be tenacious of each particular one, he should feel it his duty to vote for a *scire facias* unconditionally.

Mr. S. proceeded to make explanations of some expressions in the report. The remark, that "the principal business of the Bank certainly has been to discount on notes secured by a pledge of stock," was liable to misconception. The expression used does not convey the meaning of the committee; it was either an inadvertence in the draft, or an error in copying; he believed the expression originally was, "a principal part of the business, &c." and it was intended to confine the remark to the business of the Bank at Philadelphia, which was sometimes loosely designated as *the Bank*. With respect to the business of the Bank and all its offices, it would appear, that about one-fourth had uniformly been discounted on pledged stock; while at Philadelphia the discounts on stock had frequently very nearly equalled those on personal security. With regard to the expression, in the close of the report, that "whatever differences of opinion can exist among them, (the committee) as to the result and inferences to be drawn from the facts," stated, they unanimously concur in giving to "the preceding statements of facts, and abstracts of documents, their sanction." Mr. S. observed, that he thought the expression sufficiently precise, but he understood it was liable to a misconception. When inferences were mingled with facts, the unanimous sanction did not extend to these inferences; but, that, in all cases wherever a fact was definitely stated, the committee meant to sanction it. Mr. S. remarked, that the report had been prepared at a time of severe indisposition, and when the committee had been fatigued and almost exhausted with labor, and he should not be surprised if many erroneous expressions were found in it.

Mr. Johnson, of Virginia, then rose in support of the resolution under consideration, and addressed the committee about an hour.

Mr. Pindall, of Va. followed on the same side, and spoke nearly two hours in favor of the power in Congress to repeal the charter, and the expediency of doing so.

Mr. Lowndes then intimated a wish to make some remarks on the subject, which, late as it was, he would proceed to do, at once, if the committee were disposed now to hear him; but if they were desirous of rising he would give way.

A motion being made to that effect, the committee rose, and

The House adjourned.

EDITOR'S CABINET.

CITY OF WASHINGTON, 2
February 20, 1819. }

Diplomatic Operations.—It is already known that MR. JOHN GRAHAM succeeds Mr. SEMTER at the court of Rio; and that Mr. JOHN FORSYTH succeeds Mr. ERVING at the court of Madrid. But who is to succeed Mr. GALLATIN, at the French court? It is a place for somebody. Within two years past the whole frame of our diplomatic corps will have been changed—that is to say, at London, Paris, St. Petersburg, the Hague, Swe-

den, Madrid, and Rio. What is the reason of all this? Why do our citizens get so soon tired of these places? Are they not worth retaining? Is the pay not sufficient? Does the novelty of diplomatic life soon wear off? Or what is it? We confess that we do not like to see this: We do not like to see our ablest citizens declining posts where they might be so useful; for it is at foreign courts, in observing the progress and influence of foreign policy, the course of commerce, the improvements in education, in arts and sciences, and in transplanting them to their own country, that our most eminent characters might be most highly useful. With men of sense, however, the glare of courts, the eternal round and uniformity of ceremonies, soon present themselves in their native nothingness, and teach the understanding how vain is every thing but virtue and knowledge.

In the diplomatic corps from foreign sovereigns and states, we hear of no changes, except of an intended visit of Mr. BAGOT, the British minister, to his native country. Mr. ANTHOBS, at present the secretary of the British legation, it is understood, will remain as charge des affaires.

Mr. Gallatin.—This gentleman, we have been told, means, after his return to America, to retire to the shady scenes of western Pennsylvania. To play, perhaps, with *Amaryllis in the grove*, &c. &c. The political school boys know the rest.

Vice President TOMPKINS has left town for New York. Mr. BARBOUR, of Virginia, presides, pro tempore, in the Senate.

In New York there has not, as yet, been any election of Senator, in the place of Mr. KING, whose term of service will expire on the 4th of next month. There were several ballotings in the legislature, but without effect. The contest seems to lie between Mr. KING, the actual Senator, and Mr. JOHN C. SPENCER, at present a member of the House of Representatives. There are three political parties in the state of New York: the Clintonian, the Federal, and the Tammany. The first mentioned is rather the strongest. Their conflicts remind one of the *loves of the triangles*.

The salaries of the Heads of Departments have at length been increased by act of Congress, to wit:

Secretary of State	- - -	6000	dolls.
Secretary of the Treasury	- - -	6000	
Secretary of War	- - -	6000	
Secretary of the Navy	- - -	6000	

The Attorney General is to receive 3500 dolls. The Chief Justice of the United States 5000 dolls. The Postmaster General 4000 dollars, &c. &c.

Considering the vast depreciation of money, these salaries are still very low. Twenty years ago, half the amount would have been of more real value.